

In 1971 meeting the Captain of Mukusi village in the South Rupununi.



On February 23, 1970, Guyana became a Co-operative Republic and Dr. Jagan wrote:

"The slogan 'co-operative' republic is a hoax, a fraud, to lull the Guyanese people into a false sense of security. It is the device to cloak, to hide the reality of a neo-colonialist, capitalist-imperialist republic."

The two decades of the 70's and 80's were years of purposeful struggle to bring to a close the repeated electoral fraud and the illegitimate government of the PNC.



Meeting with waterfront workers at his office as Leader of the Opposition in 1971.



Addressing a roadside meeting in the 1970's.

Remembering the Enmore Martyrs.



During this period civil rights were repeatedly violated. Cheddi Jagan exposed the assaults on freedom of the press, academic freedom, widespread discrimination, especially in employment, the denial of Amerindian rights and women's rights, the questionable administration of justice, the right to freedom of movement. All of these were exposed when Cheddi Jagan addressed the United Nation's Human Rights Commission in 1981.



Meeting with sugar workers in the 70's and addressing a public meeting.



Cheddi Jagan and the PPP always stood up against colonialism, neo-colonialism, imperialism, militarism and apartheid, by supporting national liberation movements and all democratic forces, as he did against the war in Vietnam. He identified with all freedom fighters around the world and embraced their individual causes as his own. Below Ramkarran and Dr. Jagan (above) are seen in front of the US Embassy in Georgetown, protesting against the war in Vietnam.

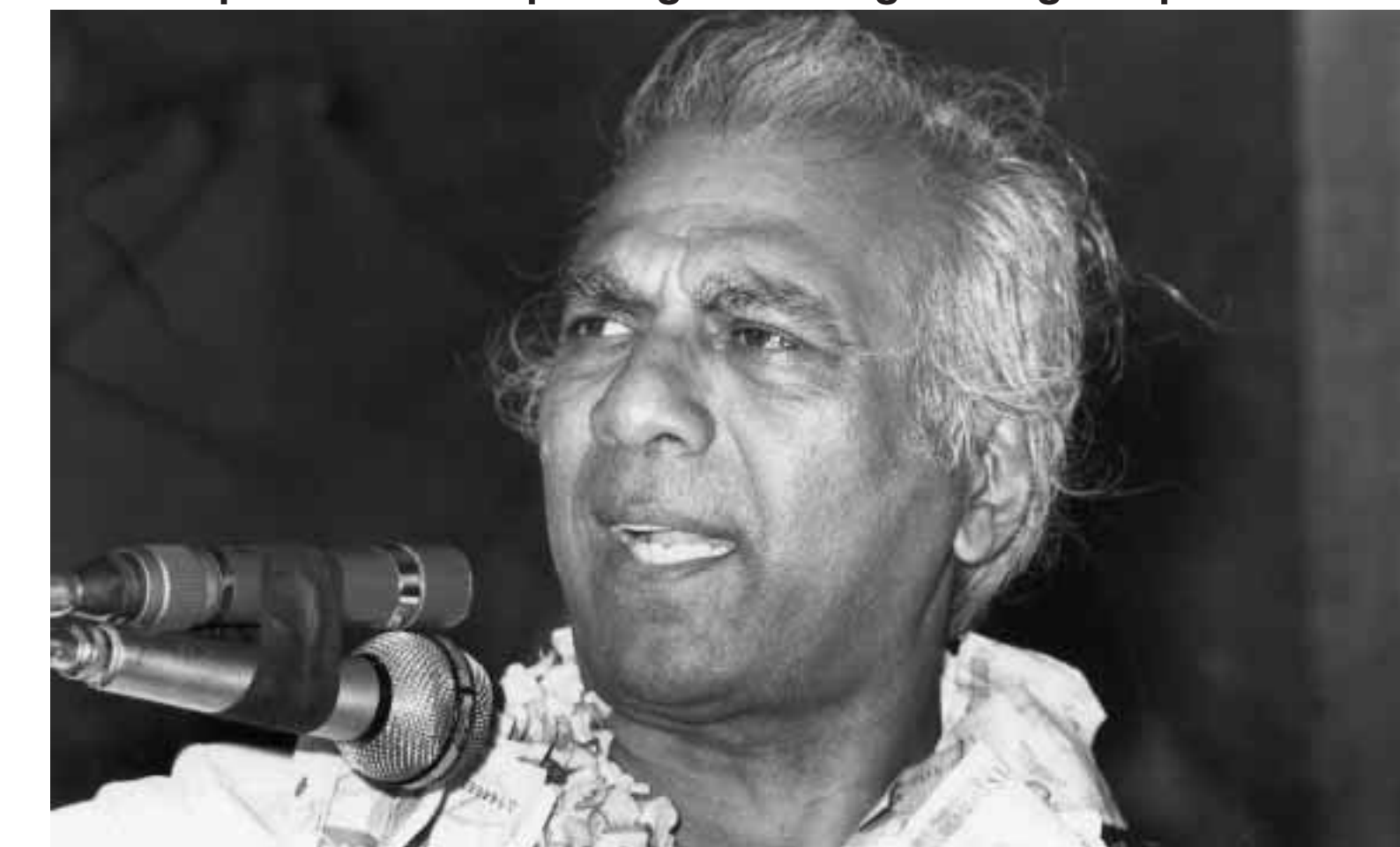


Leading a protest march against the neo-fascist PNC Government.



In July 1973 another rigged election was held. The PNC gave itself a two-thirds majority. Dr. Jagan wrote two articles about this election. He wrote: "What was witnessed on July 16 was not an election but a virtual army coup. The police and army seized and impounded and tampered with the ballot boxes." The PPP boycotted the National Assembly for over a year in protest. The PNC began proclaiming itself as a Marxist-Leninist party.

Cheddi Jagan's dynamic personality and fighting spirit are expressed in these photos of him speaking at meetings during this period.



"How can you preach in Sunday school and elsewhere: 'thou shall not steal,' when stealing at the top has become the high road to 'success'; when the weapon of extortion is used to collect hundreds of thousands of dollars from businessmen; when a whole government is stolen by rigged election; when the dead, the underaged and the non-existent vote at elections; when persons including pensioners, government employees, those in receipt of social assistance, and so on, are coerced into signing application forms for proxy and postal voting; when names are forged for proxy and postal voting, thus denying persons their right to vote; when the powers of the Elections Commission are eroded, the law requiring the publication of the list of proxies is broken, and ballot boxes are tampered with?"

Cheddi Jagan July 11, 1973



The burden of debt payments and a top-heavy administration was placed on the backs of the workers with increased taxation and cuts in social services. Budgetary allocation from the latter declined from 45% in 1964 to 35% in 1975 with grave consequences for the health and welfare of the people.



With members of the Wai-Wai Amerindian tribe. The welfare of the Amerindian people always held a special place in Dr. Jagan's heart. He believed they deserved to be treated with respect and dignity and placed on an equal footing with the other races.



Every year members of the PPP along with family of the slain sugar workers, lay wreaths at the grave of the Enmore Martyrs.

Meeting with reporters, friends and foreign delegations to get the word out on the situation at home.



Fighting for free and fair elections - the early 1970's



Cheddi Jagan in 1971 while on a visit to the Rupununi savannahs of Guyana.



Cheddi Jagan visited Vietnam in August 1971. In the photo above he is seen meeting with the Prime Minister and his interpreter (in the centre). On this trip abroad he also visited India and the refugee camps of East Pakistan. Photo of another visit to Vietnam (below).



Attending a World Peace Council Meeting in New Delhi, India. His firm belief in internationalism was expressed in his fight for world peace. He was always opposed to nuclear arms and other weapons of mass destruction. His contribution to the world-wide struggle for peace brought him international recognition and the position of a Vice-President of the World Peace Council, and President of the Guyana Peace Council.



Dr. Jagan along with other PPP members protesting the war in Vietnam, in front of the US Embassy in Georgetown.



A warm welcome!



With an old comrade, E.M.G. Wilson



During this period the PNC and IMF policies brought fear and anguish to the Guyanese people who shouldered heavier burdens as well as the draconian restrictions on essential goods, mainly foodstuff. Widespread shortages of foods, soap, and gasoline made life difficult, with thousands running away to other countries. All of this led to a deepening of the social crisis. These serious problems were addressed by Cheddi Jagan and his PPP.



Janet Jagan spoke at meetings and also used her pen to expose the PNC government. Her book on the 1973 rigged elections is still one of the best expose of violence perpetrated on the Guyanese people by the PNC. In the opening sentence she stated frankly and dramatically, "in Guyana the word "elections" has become synonymous with "fraud." Another notable feat was her examination of National Service in Guyana. This was at the time that the PNC was flirting with socialism. She showed that under the PNC regime, National Service was used to oppress, discriminate and to militarise the country.



Sugar workers only got recognition, or rather a poll to determine which union they should have, towards the end of 1975 because of a 13 week strike in the Sugar Industry. Workers struck for seven weeks in the sugar industry in the first crop and they didn't get it; and six weeks in the second crop then the Government was forced to hold a poll. That was how the Guyana Agricultural Workers Union (GAWU) was recognised. Below Dr. Jagan at a GAWU rally.



"In the complex Guyana situation, the trade union movement must operate on the basis of unity and struggle or alliance and struggle. It must unite or ally itself with all those who are fighting for progressive and revolutionary positions, and at the same time struggle against all backward, reactionary, racist and anti-working class positions." Cheddi Jagan



"In these 40 years, whatever I have achieved can be credited firstly to my parents and my wife, secondly to all those selfless and heroic comrades of my Party who stood and still stand by me; thirdly to our heroes, named and unnamed; and fourthly to the American and Russian revolutions and to those outstanding world figures Karl Marx, Vladimir Lenin, Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King.

My parents made the necessary sacrifices for my formal education. My wife insisted that though bread was important, man does not live by bread alone, that life is not just two cars in every garage and two chickens in every pot. Karl Marx made me understand what makes the world go round. And our heroes and Lenin, Gandhi and King taught me how to change Guyana and inspired me to struggle. My comrades' steadfastness gave me the strength to continue, especially in times of adversity. Cheddi Jagan 1987



With his daughter in Moscow.

